STARK

The Matyrdom of the Evangelical Missionaries in Cameroon 1914

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The Martyrdom of the Evangelical Missionaries in Cameroon 1914

Reports of Eyewitnesses

Edited by

Rev. W. Stark

Director of the Evangelical Pressverband
for Germany.

Berlin-Steglitz 1915

Foreword.

But a few months ago England was considered to be the nation most interested in the cause of missions and the English government did all in its power to spread the Christian religion and culture among the heathens. The English Bible and missionary societies were famous and held in high esteem throughout the world. Her missions were looked upon as models by all countries in the world.

Now this same England is charged with having ruined for a long time to come the flourishing mission stations of German as well as Swiss and American mission societies by her method of warfare in the colonies. English soldiers and officers have stained the reputation of the white race among the blacks; they committed thefts, broke open safes, illtreated defenceless white women in presence of the negroes, imprisoned unjustly American citizens, and payed rewards for the capture of Germans by the blacks.

This is all proved in the following pages by the undeniable reports of German and American witnesses.

In view of the great importance of this matter we took the trouble before these pages went to press of submitting each section of this document to the respective witnesses for approval, received their signatures and had the same reproduced in facsimile. We have refrained from adding any comments to the reports since we are firmly convinced that every unprejudiced reader can and will form an honest judgment of the situation.

THE EDITOR.

Illtreatment of American Missionaries in Cameroon by the English.

(Report of the American Missionary A. Orthner who recently returned from Cameroon where he had been for years active in the cause of the Baptist Mission.)

Missionary Orthner was at the station Nyamtang which was attacked by the English on November 6. He relates: "We were just returning from dinner. When we stepped out on the veranda dozens of rifles were pointed at us and we were dragged down from the steps by soldiers. The wife of Missionary Wolff was treated in the same manner. We stood in the fierce tropical sun and were not even permitted to put on our sun helmets. We asked an English officer who stepped up to us with cocked revolver why we though defenceless should be treated in this way. We were now permitted to enter our house which was, however, surrounded by soldiers. But now they took our goats, chickens, and what other things we had. Our makabo fields, too, were plundered (makabo is an African vegetable bulb). Our expensive imported lumber was chopped up as kindling wood. We now began to pack up. I made seven packs of 50 pounds each and we were then conducted over Jabassi to the coast. It soon appeared that of

my seven packs the three most important, containing my papers, letters, and 1555 marks in silver, as well as the necessary clothing, were gone. Upon inquiry I was told that they had probably gotten mixed up with the government things and that I would find everything at Duala." Rev. Orthner never recovered his property. He says: "I was now deprived of money and the necessary clothing. Our own food supplies had been confiscated and, we were fed on bad 'corned beef' and 'fresh herring', the latter having been taken from the negroes."

Two weeks we were confined in the prisoners' camp at Duala. The house where we were interned was surrounded by a high fence and was guarded. On the veranda of the second story in which we were confined six soldiers kept guard while two others were stationed at the entrance. Whenever we went into the yard we had to wait until a negro soldier deliberately took up his gun and followed on our heels. The ladies had their quarters elsewhere but received no better treatment. Some of them underwent experiences which cannot be recounted here and show that the English officers are the responsible parties and that they are mean characters. We were subjected to all manner of insults. One officer said if he had his way we should simply be shot down so that we and all Germans might be wiped off the face of the earth. On November 22 we were ordered to get ready; each one was permitted to take 50 pounds of luggage. In the presence of the natives we were compelled to carry our own packs which is here looked upon as a great disgrace. With wives and children we were taken on board the steamer Appam. A certain Mrs. Schwartz, though she was enceinte and the physician considered her condition serious, was compelled to clamber up the side of the ship which lay in the harbour. Twenty-four hours later the child was born.

The following incident will serve to show to what wiles the English resorted to capture the missionaries. Mr. Gutbrod of the Basel mission was interrupted one day at dinner by a messenger who informed him a European wished to speak with him in the village. After taking hasty leave of his wife he went into the neighboring village where he was met by an English officer and several soldiers. The officer informed him he would have to go several miles further on where some other Englishmen wished to see him. After arriving here he was ordered to go several miles farther. He requested that he be permitted to return to fetch a few things and reassure his wife. But the request was denied and he was ordered into a negro hut, the entrances of which were guarded by sentinels. There was no longer any doubt that he was a prisoner. He was now allowed to write a letter to his wife in which he told her what things to pack up for him. She received it weeks later only two hours before she herself was led off to the coast. Reverend Orthner relates further, that he was given to understand the conditions of his imprisonment might be ameliorated if he would consent to write a report of "German atrocities". Missionary Wolff was actually offered his freedom on condition that he would write such an article. But these men knew of no German atrocities and openly said so and Mr. Wolff sent them an article about English barbarities. It may be mentioned here that the latter was taken prisoner in spite of his American citizenship.

Before Rev. Orthner was taken prisoner the enemy had saptured Duala on September 27. In the following night the town was plundered by Duala negroes. Here, also, the missionaries were taken prisoner by negro soldiers and brought on board the ship "Bathurst". In the course of the very first night all were awakened and literally robbed. The president of the mission, missionary Märtens still had 300 marks intended for 6 missionaries, 100 marks of which were in paper. He begged earnestly to be allowed to keep the cash but he was left only the paper money which no longer had any value. The 6 missionaries had left between them 25 pfennig. They were then brought to Acra on the Gold Coast and interned in one of the notorious concentration camps. A few days later the missionaries were set free on their word of honor. But now the English ceased to care for them. And to be in a strange country without money is a serious matter.

Since Rev. Orthner was not accessible this report was submitted to Missionary Valentine Wolff for ratification. He writes:

The Rev. A. Orthner, now living at
20 Parker ave, Detroit, Mich. U. S. A., was
my fellow worker in Nyamtang.
This report, as given above, is in absolu
cordance with my experience.
Valentine Wolff
(Citizen of the U. S. A.)

Entirely independently of this report of the American Missionary Orthner which first appeared in the Detroit Evening Post, the abovementioned Missionary Valentine Wolff of the Baptist Mission reports about the plunder of the station Nyamtang.

Report of the Missionary Valentine Wolff (U. S. Citizen).

After picturing the capture of Duala and Buea by the English, for which purpose they had assembled about 10 000 negro soldiers who met with practically no resistance, he tells how the English and their black troops attacked and plundered Nyamtang.

The missionaries were driven by the English soldiers into the station yard. Standing there in the burning tropical sun without cover, they were forced to see how the soldiers rummaged through their rooms and packed everything available in the way of money, watches and valuables into their knapsacks. The report then continues: "When soon after a colonel and a few other officers appeared and I expressed my surprise that the English should thus attack a mission station and complained of the ill treatment I had received at the hands of the English soldiers, he retorted: 'War is war'. On calling his attention to the fact that we were American citizens, he replied that he had orders to take prisoner all white persons without exception and that we would have to be ready to depart the next morning. It is plain that this departure from the scene of long years of activity was painful to us. After we had gone about $^1/_3$ mile the officer accompanying me received a note signed by the colonel in which he asked for the keys to the rooms in which we had locked up our things. Suspecting nothing we continued our journey. At Ndogao we stopped for a short rest. Here we met our servant girls and other natives who had followed us and heard from them that the English who had remained on the grounds after our departure had broken down the doors, broken apen all chests and drawers and taken everything of value or sold the things to the natives. At first we could not believe this, but the news was confirmed from various sides.

On our arrival in Jabassi it was already growing dark. We spent the night in one of the buildings belonging to the firm C. Woermann where there was not a single piece of furniture left. All had been taken. We also made the painful discovery that 9 of our packs were missing. One of the Englishmen comforted me with the remark, they had no doubt been taken by mistake to the Government hut. But when on the next day on continuing our journey we saw them in the possession of English soldiers we knew that we had again been robbed.

I should like to say further, that the Englishmen soon after their arrival at Nyamtang remarked at several times that they had seen a member of bodies of natives along the road on their way. They said they could not understand why the German soldiers should shoot down the harmless natives. I called their attentions to the uncertainty as to who had killed these negroes. After my arrival in Duala I was summoned to appear before the commanding staff and asked to write something about German atrocities. I refused and was dismissed. Soon after came a second summons; and again this outrageous request. After I had declared my readiness to write down what I had seen, I was permitted to go. The report which I handed in told of the shameless treatment which had been accorded me and the other missionaries. Hereupon I was again called up and sharply reprimanded because what I had written was a complaint against the English and French soldiers and cast suspicion on the whole staff. They had the impudence to go a step farther and suggest the prospect of being released in case I fulfilled their wish and wrote and sent in a report of the atrocities committed by the German troops! Of course, that was out of the question. Under the charge that I as a United States citizen had not acted in accordance with the duties of a citizen of a neutral state and supported the German government in its aims and

intentions my wife and I were brought to England as prisoners of war. Fortunately I, as an ordained missionary, was finally released and permitted to go to Germany.

Missionar Valentin Wolff
amerikanischer Bürger

Missonary VALENTINE WOLFF,
U. S. Citizen.

The Unworthy Treatment in English Captivity.

The missionary Charlotte Schüler writes:

On Sunday, Sep. 27, we heard the sad news of the surrender of Duala. The following night passed quietly; but the next morning we had no rest from the blacks and the English and French. Our missionaries were ordered out of the house by them and lined up in the yard. We were still left in possession of our freedom on Monday, but on Tuesday morning, Sep. 29, we also were taken prisoner. To be sure, we were told: "You need only register at the hospital and can then go again". But we were detained there and in this way all Germans were captured. On Wednesday we were brought on board the small English steamer "Bathurst". As far as cleanliness is concerned it was not a model. The men had to stay on deck day and night, whereas the women were given cabins. These were, however, in such a condition that it was almost impossible to sleep in them. At midnight we were awakened and searched for money. When we came on deck 200 marks had already been taken from Missionary Märtens. They had left him only 25 pfennig. No one bothered about getting food for us. The first two days we received nothing at all! On the third day some provisions were distributed but not enough to satiate us. One man got a glass of ground pepper, I, a piece of soap and many others stuff not to be eaten. On the fourth day each one received two ships' biscuits — together about ¼ pound — and a salted herring and that had to last us a day. Later we were given salt meat and rice. The broth made of it was often green and the maggots floated on the surface. We had neither plates and cups, nor knives and forks. Some ate from the palms of their hands; others, we among them, straightened out meat tins and used them as plates and carved some spoons from old boards. A large enamel pan had been given us and served about 22 persons as dish, dishpan and washbasin. Thus the first few days passed. Eighteen persons soon became ill because of this treatment. We were transported to the Gold Coast. The natives there raised an ear-splitting racket when they rowed us through the surf to the strand of Acra. Pelted with stones and spat upon by the natives, the

women and children were taken away in large dirty auto-trucks. On Monday, Dec. 7, we again had to pack up. In the afternoon me were bundled into auto-trucks, taken to the strand, and brought on board the English steamer "Appam". All whites in the colony, Germans as well as the neutral Dutch, Swiss, and Americans, who were treated as prisoners of war, had been brought thither. We arrived in Liverpool, Monday, Dec. 28. On Tuesday we left the ship. The married couples were separated. Those were heartbreaking scenes. In groups of 40 the men, almost 250 in number, were led off under guard and were not seen again in England by their wives and children. The women were lodged at an inn. To our great delight several gentlemen of the U. S. Consulate came later and undertook to attend to our transportation to London. On the way from the "Appam" to the hotel we saw how some Liverpool street boys rolled a dead rat in the mud and threw it in the face of one of our ladies. We were also pelted with mud and stones. In London we were taken in hand by the German Benevolent Association because we could not continue our journey to Rotterdam immediately and were lodged at the "Deutsches Hotel" there. They cared for us in every way and here for the first time in weeks we again felt like human beings. Then we went to Rotterdam and from there to the German border. What a genuine pleasure that was to be permitted once more to set foot on German soil!

Charlotte Schiller

From the Basel (Swiss) Mission.

The missionaries of the Basel, a Swiss and thus neutral mission, who worked in Cameroon were treated in just as shameful a fashion. The director of this mission, Dr. Oehler, wrote in the official organ of the society, "Der Evangelische Heidenbote", with reference to the reports of the missionaries published in the "Basler Nachrichten": "These facts are serious charges against Great Britain, her policy and method of warfare. Without any necessity whatever England has carried the war into the colonies and thus spread this war of the nations over the whole earth. England has made the war a fight against the innocent and women; they were taken prisoner, dragged into captivity and treated with inconceivable brutality. The labor of peace of the mission was the sacrifice of warfare directed against not only state and army but also private citizen, a method of warfare opposed to all fundamental principles of civilization."

This declaration was printed in the "Basler Nachrichten" and caused the British Minister at Bern to protest. He said: "In Cameroon the missionaries were treated with all possible courtesy. They were taken to England because it was considered more humane to intern them in a milder climate. The assertion that they met with brutal treatment is without any foundation whatever."

Every unprejudiced reader is in a position to form a judgment as to this "bold protest" of the English Minister at Bern after reading the preceding reports of eyewitnesses. Dr. Oehler, the director of the Mission, made an unequivocal reply to the Minister in the "Basler Nachrichten" of February 25.

The Reply of Mission Director Dr. Oehler of Basel to the protest of the English Minister in Bern.

"I stand by my words in spite of the denial of the English Minister."

The missionaries in question were stationed at: Boraku with Bonaduma and Bonabela, Bonaberi, Mangamba, Jabassi, Ndunge, Buea, and Lobetal. These places were one after the other occupied by black troops under the command of French and English. A certain Mr. Paul, as civil governor, also played a rôle in addition to the officers. I do not know who was responsible for the treatment on the transport vessels, but in any case they were English on English vessels. The missionaries and their wives were taken prisoner at different times and in different groups. Hence the treatment was not always the same and what I say does not fit every case.

Just a few incidents from the tale of suffering of our missionaries. Confident that the English as a civilized people and one friendly to the cause of missions would accord them worthy treatment, the missionaries remained on their posts in spite of the threatening occupation and believed they could reassure their church members. They were destined to be bitterly disappointed. In Duala they were told to report personally at the hospital and that they could then go free. They did so and were immediately held prisoner. I know of two other cases of similar deception of the missionaries.

In Duala members of our mission, men, women, and unmarried woman missionaries, were packed into one small room (in the tropics!) and left without food for twenty four hours. Only a few black servant boys took pity upon them. They were guarded by negro soldiers. In the case of several missionaries and missionaries' wives who were taken prisoner later, the guard kept was so strict that decency forbids one to speak of it.

Of the plunder of the missionaries' dwellings by blacks and the theft of their private property whites I will not speak in detail, but it must be mentioned.

Upon the complaint of the missionaries the abovementioned Mr. Paul declared the best thing to do would be to shoot them all. Like a gang of convicts the missionaries together with many other Germans were taken to the transport vessel before the eyes of the blacks, guarded by large numbers of negro soldiers with fixed bayonets. Many were prevented from taking even the most necessary clothing for the voyage; they traveled in their thin tropical dress. And they were not transported directly to England as the English Minister would have it appear, at least not all. The one group was taken first to Lagos. During this trip the men on deck had not even sufficient protection against the storm. The food of men and women alike consisted on a number of days of a single ships' biscuit full of maggots. On the other days they received rice which they were compelled to boil in a vessel which had previously served as a receptacle for chloride of lime. And when it was boiled they had to eat the rice from the palms of their hands. A request for filtered water (unfiltered water is dangerous) was denied one missionary. At such times they were forced to submit to the vilest insults.

This all in spite of the fact that there was sufficient food on board. The black sailors and deck hands were well taken care of.

Thus the voyage. In Lagos they were permitted to live in the house of an English missionary society and were better treated. Later, and this was considerate of the English authorities, they succeeded in securing their transferance to the Gold Coast. There the treatment was in part good.

May these specimens suffice. There is a large amount of documentary evidence which has been in part published in "Der Evangelische Heidenbote".

Now as for the witnesses. In support of my statements and opinion I mention first the persons interviewed by myself, the two women Link and Hecklinger, the ordained missionaries Lutz, President of the Cameroon Mission, Hecklinger, member of the board of governors, Missionary Gutbrod, Wittwer, Bärtschi and Wöll. I am ready to name 20 or 30 more witnesses, some of them living in Switzerland, for any one who considers further proof necessary. The witness of the Basel missionaries is confirmed by that of the German Baptist missionary Märtens. His sick wife, after she had gone through experiences like the above in Cameroon, died in a hospital on the Gold Coast, heartlessly treated by an English nurse, but humanely by a negress. The dying woman was denied a visit of her husband until her senses began to leave her.

The statements of Märtens have been communicated to the Department of the Foreign Affairs in Berlin and have been published in various German papers.

Basel, February 23, 1915.

H. Ostler.

In English Hands.

Experiences of Cameroon prisoners of war.

On the morning of Sep. 27 the white flag waved over Duala and in the evening the allies hoisted theirs. On the morning of Sep. 28 their troops disembarked. From then on Duala was actually in their hands. What that meant the Duala negroes soon showed us. Since the execution of Rudolf Bell (Duala Manga) they had disappeared; but on this morning it seemed as though the mouth of the river and the bay would vomit forth Duala. The air resounded with their indescribable taunts and shouts of joy. One horde after another swarmed up without end. And they immediately began to plunder. The shops and shacks along the strand in which there were no Germans present were robbed, stocks of wood, stocks and provisions of all kinds, everything moveable was stolen under the very eyes of the Englishmen and lugged off. At the railroad station a German's head was split open with a bush knife. And yet the English and French could easily have prevented all this. The respect in which the Germans were held by the Duala was not yet broken. Wherever they were met with cool determination they left off plundering and excused themselves saying the English had given them permission. Whether that was true or not, I do not know; one thing is certain, this plundering was welcome to the English as long as we Germans were witnesses. When they had imprisoned us in the hospital they took exceedingly severe steps against plun-

dering Duala. Whoever was caught plundering was either shot down or barbarically beaten. We saw from the veranda how one Duala received 52 blows with a stick from those same Englishmen who had previously posed as the liberators of the Duala. The Englishmen had assumed the rôle of robbers and thieves, especially the English officers, and would permit no interference with this privilege. It was observed by Germans who were later taken prisoner how British officers broke open chests and drawers in private dwellings and robbed them; others supplied themselves in a factory with silver cigarette cases and other articles nat exactly necessary in warfare; others labored three nights to break open a safe and judging from the time chosen for the operation it was not for the benefit of the English war chest. In one case they sent a message to the owner asking him to deliver up the key since it would be a pity to break his beautiful strong box like the rest. The English merchants who had hitherto lived at Duala behaved, in part, particularly bad. One played the rôle of informer and aroused the officers against us by relating that the English merchants interned by us had had only dried fish and rice to eat. As a matter of fact they had lived first class on board the „Hans Woermann" and had received exactly the same food as the captain himself. Another was seen to break open the chests and boxes of Germans with axe and pick. Today Duala is robbed and plundered. If the English are asked who did it, they reply: "The Duala, you all saw it yourselves." And that is why on the first day the Duala were given unrestrained freedom in their barbarism.

But let us retrace our steps a little. In the course of the afternoon of September 28th the news was brought — by whom I cannot say, as I was at the time fortunately busy at the strand and so not in my dwelling — that all men, especially all unmarried men, should come to the precinct station to be registered. They would not have to take anything along as they would be dismissed immediately. Two hours later those who had responded to the summons were on their way to Dahomey as prisoners. Here they as well as a part of the captured Germans from Togo were divided into smaller groups and placed at the disposal of the local anthorities for labor purposes. There they are now working like slaves under negro overseers in the plantations and on the roads, in part clad only with loin cloth and sandals. That is not only an insult to the white race but is in many cases downright murder of the most vicious kind. It is characteristic that natives who greet these prisoners are punished at the whipping post or by fines. The aim is not only to ruin the Germans economically, but by treading their honor under foot to make them impossible.

After the larger part of the Germans had been removed in this way, the rest, men and women, I among them, were driven like cattle to the government hospital by the black soldiers, accompanied by the taunts of the negroes. Many, especially women, had previously sought the protection of this institution of their own free will as this was the only means at their disposal of escaping the molestations of the soldateska about town. We were packed together, about 150 men and women, in a very few rooms — a torture since the toilets refused to operate and it was not permitted under any circumstance to leave the rooms. We do not complain that there was nothing to eat for two days since nearly all our servants remained faithful and cared

for us though again and again sent off by the Englishmen. The German habit of mutual assistance here appears in its best light.

Two days later we were brought on board the steamer „Bathurst" where the women received cabins while the men had to camp on deck exposed to wind and weather. Neither covers, dishes, nor knives and forks were supplied although very few had been permitted to take anything but that which they wore. The first night between 11 and 12 o'clock every one — men and women — was awakened and searched for money and every sum over 100 marks was taken without a receipt. Since this procedure was to have been repeated the next morning, the stolen money no doubt wandered into the pockets of the officers concerned.

From Duala we went first slowly to Lagos. Aside from the fact that there was almost nothing to eat — sometimes only one ship's biscuit in the course of the day — and that the continuous rain made stay on deck unendurable, there is not much to complain of during the trip. The conduct of the old English privates, to their credit be it said, was perfect. In Lagos we had satisfactory treatment for 14 days, but there was a considerable scarcity of water. The Germans taken prisoner later — all civilians, of course — were also brought thither. These later transports received especially bad treatment because of the success of the Germann arms at Jabassi and the Midland Valley R. R. In one transport, for example, the men were packed so closely together that they could neither sit nor lie down. At night they lay on the bare steel plates without covers. Not only all their money but their last cigar had been taken from them. At one time the drinking water was actually poured into a slop pail and then offered them. When they complained a British officer declared: "It is all one and the same, if the German pigs have water or not." Abuse of this sort was frequent though not always so brutal. Only an African can understand what it means when British officers speak to natives of white people as "German pigs" or if a German must suffer himself to be called "German pig" by a negro, and that happened often enough.

From Lagos the missionaries together with their wives were taken to the Gold Coast. How well they were treated there the following example shows. The wife of one missionary had become deathly ill from exhaustion. Her urgent request to be allowed to speak once more with her husband was not granted. Not until she was so weak that she could no longer talk was her husband permitted to come for a short time but without remaining until the end. When she was dying he was allowed to come and stay with her until death set in. Such things cannot be excused by saying: That is war. For this took place on the Gold Coast where there was no enemy far or near. This shows English breeding and English civilization in their true light.

The rest of us, men, women and children, down to suckling babes, were brought on board the freighter "Oboasi" and transported to England under negro guard.

The women were given cramped, but nevertheless decent quarters in a few cabins. However, they hardly ever received enough to eat. The men, seven or nine hundred in number, were jammed into the hold where there was actually not enough room outside the bunks to stand. During the first few days the food was passable but soon spoiled

and became almost unfit to eat. The result was that nearly all of us become sick. Hardly any drinking water was distributed. There seem to have been neither medicine nor bandages on board, at least the prisoners received only quinine and purgatives for all ills and open wounds or sores had to go unbandaged. There was enough milk for the children but none was distributed. The toilet arrangements were so bad that we in the steerage were in case of a strong breeze often covered with excrement from head to foot. This was an existence made unbearable by shame and rage. The conditions of our stay at Free Town (Sierra Leone) were especially bad. We lay in the harbor about 5 days. Scarcely a breeze stirred. The sun to which we were exposed beat upon us mercilessly. The steel plates of the loading deck on which we had to stay were so hot that they burned through the soles of our shoes. And with all that hardly any drinking water was given us. Nearly all of us felt that a couple of more days like this would be the end of us. A seaman among us got a sunstroke and died. But since that could not be acknowledged the death was recorded as due to fever

Dr. G. Föhringer

Extract from the report of the woman missionary Pauline Kessler of the German Baptist Mission at Ndogongi (Cameroon).

"Severed Hands".

"After the capture and deportation of all the Germans in the coastal territories became known to the bush people, these also directed their attention to the inland mission stations. Thus the Duala had repeatedly tried to prevail upon the neighboring tribes to capture and take us to Duala, saying that they would receive a large reward from the English for delivering us up. But our heathen neighbors did not have the courage to attack us. They were afraid of the guns of the white men. Some of them, to be sure, went to Duala and called the attention of the English to us, but the latter themselves did not come to us. The journey seemed to be to burdensome. On the other band, they are said to have made the natives promises for every German or colonial soldier they brought in. — The beginning of December a soldier of the colonial troop was murdered at Lohat, 4 or 5 hours journey from us; one of his hands was cut off and together with his rifle brought to the English. A reward is said to have been paid. Soon after some workmen who had been employed by the German government but were now dismissed, were attacked, robbed, and murdered. Their hands, too, were brought to Duala. On December 23 a negro soldier from Jubassi was traveling together with a missionary scholar from Nyamtang to Ndogongi to bring us a message. On December 24 he and the mission scholar were found murdered near our station. Rifles and hands were in this case, too, delivered to the Englishmen. We saw both soldier and scholar lying dead and mutilated near our station.

Pauline Kessler

It would scarcely seem possible

that the English offered the blacks head money for the Germans.

But this is proved beyond doubt by the following letter.

The Deposition of the American Missionary Wolff.

"According to the statements of missionaries Schwarz and Gehr of the Basel Mission in the Lobe Valley on the Sanaga, as well as of the merchant Erich Student, employee of the German Cameroon Co., Ltd., in Edea, who were in captivity with us, the English troops called upon the Sanaga natives of that region to deliver up or put out of the way Germans standing in the employ of the German government on the lower Sanaga as patrol leaders and for this purpose they set a reward up to 50 shillings on the head of every German.

As the result of this call the leaders, sailor Nickstadt and Quartermaster Schlichting, both belonging to the steamer "Kamerun" lying in the harbor of Duala, were attacked and murdered by the natives. Nickstadt was drowned and Schlichting hewn to pieces with bush knives.

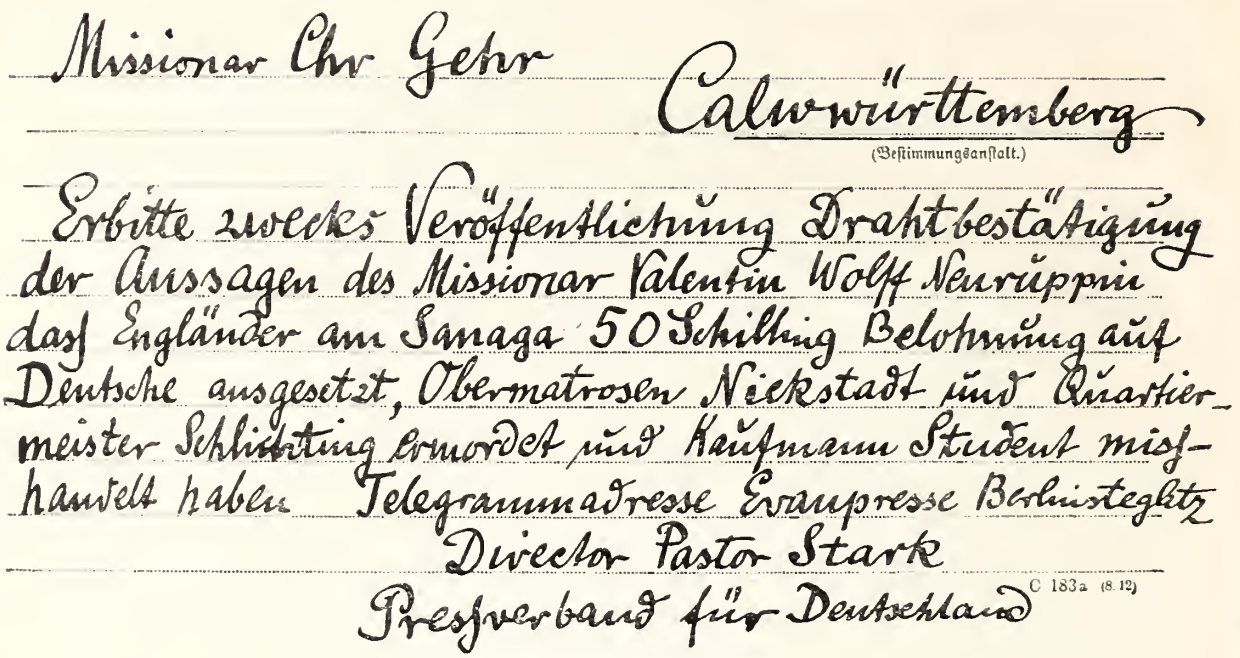
The merchant Erich Student member of the colonial troops, according to his own statements made in my presence on October 23, at 2 P. M., was together with his negro companion attacked by about 50 natives, stripped with the exception of his trousers, severely beaten, then laid in a canoe half-filled with water and so brought on board the English steamer "Remos". As far as he could remember he had lain 16 hours in this water before the ship was reached. After his arrival on board he complained to the English officers of the inhumane treatment that had been accorded him. One of these gentlemen replied: "It was high time that we caught you." He was then brought to the prisoners' camp at Duala where he arrived barefoot, clad only in a pair of trousers and with swollen feet and bruised face. When I saw him shortly afterward in the concentration camp there were still traces of this illtreatment to be seen.

Missionary Schwarz says he is still in possession of an English sovereign which was paid one of the natives as reward."

Missionar: Valentin Wolff

amerikanischer Bürger

The editor of this brochure sent Missionary Gehr the following telegram:


Missionar Chr Gehr
Calw württemberg
(Bestimmungsanstalt.)
Erbitte zwecks Veröffentlichung Drahtbestätigung der Aussagen des Missionar Valentin Wolff Neuruppin dass Engländer am Sanaga 50 Schilling Belohnung auf Deutsche ausgesetzt, Obermatrosen Nickstadt und Quartiermeister Schlichting ermordet und Kaufmann Student misshandelt haben Telegrammadresse Evanpresse Berlinsteglitz
Director Pastor Stark
Pressverband für Deutschland
C 183a (8.12)

(Missionary Chr. Gehr.

Calwwürttemberg.

Request for purpose of publication that you confirm by wire the statements of Missionary Wolff that the English on the Sanaga offered 50 shillings reward for Germans caught, that Master Seaman Nickstadt and Quartermaster Schlichting were murdered and merchant Student illtreated. Telegram address Evanpresse Berlinsteglitz.

Director Reverend Stark
Pressverband für Deutschland.)

He received the following reply:

Blatt № 058

Telegramm Nr. ....

Aufgenommen den 27. 3. 1915

um 11 Uhr 9 Min. vorm. nachm.

von Stgt Rg

durch ....

stark pressverband fuer deutschland

evanpresse berlinsteglitz =

Telegraphie des Deutschen Reichs.

5016

Berlin, Haupt-Telegraphenamt Leitung Nr. ....

Befördert den 27.3.15 12 BERLIN SW. 68 STEGLITZ 1

um .... vorm. nachm.

in Ltg. .... an ....

durch ....

Telegramm aus .... . + calw 55 27/3 10-24 metrst = ... W. den .../.... um .... Uhr .... Min. vorm. nachm.

jch bestaetige . dass die kaufleute student und nickolai sowie der matrose fischer von eingeborenen am sanaga furchtbar misshandelt wurden . dass nickstadt ertraenkt und schlichting ermordet wurde kaufmann student sah einen schein . nach welchem 50 schilling von den englaendern auf den kopf je eines deutschen gesetzt waren = missionar chr . gehr .+

(Stark pressverband für Deutschland
evanpresse berlinsteglitz.

I confirm that the merchants Erich Student and Nickolai also Seaman Fischer were fearfully mauled by the natives on the Sanaga and that Nickstadt was drowned and Schlichting murdered. Merchant Student saw a circular according to which 50 shillings were set on the head of every German by the English. Missionary Chr. Gehr.)

After comparison I attest that this answer has not been garbled.

Chr. Gehr, Missionar.

(Chr. Gehr, Missionary.)

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